

From: Sam Cranford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 1:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

In reading the proposed agreement against Microsoft, I would like to add that I disagree with Provision III. J. It is essential for Microsoft's competitors to have access to the full Windows and Office APIs, and to the file formats for MS Office. Without these, Microsoft will forever hold the upper hand in developing any application to run on their OS. This has been their key to their monopoly power, their method of devaluing competing products. If the competition could access these two aspects of the OS installed on more than 90% of the worlds PCs, then the world would benefit from more productive, more secure applications without also suffering from intolerable, hostile vendor lock-in. Let's not forget that Microsoft has arrived where they are, both in market share and legal trouble, by abusing their monopoly position. They must be forced to pay a price much higher than the proposed settlement, which will do virtually nothing to right the numerous wrongs that Microsoft has already committed. Only releasing the APIs and file formats will allow significant reversal of the existing monopoly.

Thank you for considering the peoples' proposals,
Sincerely,
Samuel K. Cranford